

10/646,424

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A connecting system for a child car seat in a vehicle, the system comprising a child car seat in combination with a connecting strap, the child car seat being of a type which can either be rearward or forward facing and having a rear strap path for use when the seat is in the forward facing position and a front strap path for use when the seat is in the rearward facing position, the connecting strap comprising latches at either end thereof and which are adapted to engage with latching bars on the vehicle, the connecting strap passing through and being permanently fixed in a strap duct in the child car seat, the connecting strap being sufficiently long that respective ends extending from each side of the strap duct can pass through and extend out the opposite side of the front strap path for use when the child car seat is in the rearward facing position or pass through and extend out the opposite side of the rear strap path for use when the child car seat is in the forward facing position.

2. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A connecting system as in Claim 1 wherein the strap duct is one of the rear strap path and the front strap path.

3. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A connecting system as in Claim 1 wherein the strap duct is the rear strap path whereby when the restraining strap is used for the forward facing position the strap extends directly to the latch bars and when the seat is used in the rearward facing position the strap is crossed through the front strap path and then extends to the latch bars.

4. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A connecting system as in Claim 1 wherein the strap duct is the front strap path whereby when the restraining strap is used for the rearward facing position the strap extends directly to the latch bars and when the seat is used in the forward facing position the strap is crossed through the rear strap path and then extends to the latch bars.

5. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A connecting system as in Claim 1 wherein the strap duct is a separate path across the seat between the front strap path and the rear strap path whereby when the restraining strap is used for the forward facing position the strap is crossed through the rear strap path and then extend to the latch bars and when the seat is used in the rearward facing position the strap is crossed through the front strap path and then extends to the latch bars.

6. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A connecting system as in Claim 1 wherein the connecting strap is fixed into the strap duct by rivets.

10/646,424

7. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A connecting system as in Claim 1 wherein the connecting strap includes a length adjuster at one or both ends.

8. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A connecting system as in Claim 1 wherein the latches are arranged to engage, in one orientation only, with the latching bars in the motor vehicle.

9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of restraining a child car seat in a vehicle comprising a child car seat in combination with a connecting strap, the child car seat being of a type which can either be rearward or forward facing and having a rear strap path for use when the seat is in the forward facing position and a front strap path for use when the seat is in the rearward facing position, the connecting strap passing through and being permanently fixed in a strap duct in the child car seat and having portions extending from each side of the strap duct and latches at either end thereof which are adapted to engage with latching bars on the vehicle, the method including the steps of passing respective extending portions of the connecting strap through either the rear or the front strap path from opposite sides and crossing each other and extending out the opposite side of the rear or front strap path for use when the child car seat is in the forward or rearward facing position respectively. ◆

10. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method as in Claim 9 wherein the strap duct is the rear strap path whereby when the restraining strap is used for the forward facing position the strap extends directly to the latch bars and when the seat is used in the rearward facing position the strap is crossed through the front strap path and then extends to the latch bars.

11. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method as in Claim 9 wherein the strap duct is the front strap path whereby when the restraining strap is used for the rearward facing position the strap extends directly to the latch bars and when the seat is used in the forward facing position the strap is crossed through the rear strap path and then extends to the latch bars.

12. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method as in Claim 9 wherein the strap duct is a separate path across the seat between the front strap path and the rear strap path whereby when the restraining strap is used for the forward facing position the strap crossed through the rear strap path and then extend to the latch bars and when the seat is used in the rearward facing position the strap is crossed through the front strap path and then extends to the latch bars.

10/646,424

13. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method as in Claim 9 wherein the latches are arranged to engage, in one orientation only, with the latching bars in the motor vehicle.

14. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method as in Claim 9 wherein the connecting strap is fixed into the strap duct by rivets.

15. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method as in Claim 9 wherein the connecting strap includes a length adjuster at one or both ends.

16. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A connecting system for a child car seat in a vehicle, the child car seat being of a type which can either be rearward or forward facing and having a rear strap path for use when the seat is in the forward facing position and a front strap path for use when the seat is in the rearward facing position, the connecting system including a connecting strap having latches at either end thereof which are adapted to engage with latching bars on the vehicle, the connecting strap passing through and being permanently fixed in the rear strap path, the connecting strap being sufficiently long that respective ends extending from each side of the rear strap path can be passed through the front strap path from opposite sides to cross and to extend out the opposite side of the front strap path for use when the child car seat is in the rearward facing position.

17. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of restraining a child car seat in a vehicle, the child car seat being of a type which can either be rearward or forward facing and having a rear strap path for use when the seat is in the forward facing position and a front strap path for use when the seat is in the rearward facing position, a connecting strap passing through and being permanently fixed in the rear strap path and having portions extending from each side of the rear strap path and latches at either end thereof which are adapted to engage with latching bars on the vehicle, the method including the steps of passing respective extending portions of the connecting strap through the front strap path from opposite sides and crossing each other and extending out the opposite side of the front strap path for use when the child car seat is in the rearward facing position.

18. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A child car seat for use in a vehicle in a vehicle, the child car seat being of a type which can either be rearward or forward facing and having a rear strap path for use when the seat is in the forward facing position and a front strap path for use when the seat is in the rearward facing position, a connecting

10/646,424

strap having latches at either end thereof and which are adapted to engage with latching bars on the vehicle, the connecting strap passing through and being permanently fixed in a strap duct, the connecting strap being sufficiently long that respective ends extending from each side of the strap duct can extend out the opposite side of the front strap path for use when the child car seat is in the rearward facing position or extend out the opposite side of the rear strap path for use when the child car seat is in the forward facing position.

19. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A child car seat as in Claim 18 wherein the strap duct is one of the rear strap path and the front strap path.

20. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A child car seat as in Claim 18 wherein the strap duct is the rear strap path.

21. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A child car seat as in Claim 18 wherein the strap duct is the front strap path.

22. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A child car seat as in Claim 18 wherein the strap duct is a separate path across the seat between the front strap path and the rear strap path.

23. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A child car seat as in Claim 18 wherein the connecting strap is fixed into the strap duct by rivets.

24. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A child car seat as in Claim 18 wherein the connecting strap includes a length adjuster at one or both ends.

25. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A child car seat as in Claim 18 wherein the latches are arranged to engage, in one orientation only, with the latching bars in the motor vehicle.